



Spot Report: Poly-America Fire

US Environmental Protection Agency

Report Date: 8/19/2020

Last edited 8/19/2020 10:19 AM UTC

Overview: A fire at the Poly America plant in Grand Prairie will likely continue to burn throughout the day and tomorrow. Officials have encouraged residents in the area to self-evacuate as fumes coming from the blaze could be harmful to anyone who suffers from breathing problems. The blaze broke out sometime before midnight along an area of pallets and rail cars outside the facility; it's believed that two rail cars are burning. Employees inside the facility were evacuated. Crews are monitoring a situation with electrical tower towers in the area. Firefighters are concerned that the towers which stand up to 60 feet tall could fall, bringing down power lines a mile in each direction. Poly America's website says it produces several products in the polyethylene family.

The facility reported that firefighting foams have made it into North Cottonwood Creek.

State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions: Local fire departments have deployed to the site and are fighting the fire. In addition the City of Grand Prairie has an environmental contractor ready as needed. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has deployed personnel as well as their contractor to engage in ground level air monitoring.

EPA Actions: Based on a request from Grand Prairie, the EPA ASPECT plane has been activated and will fly the scene and plume as soon as flight restrictions from the near-by DFW airport are worked through.

In addition, the START contractor has been activated to assist in air monitoring in the local area. EPA Phone Duty Officer will continue to monitor the situation and remain in contact with the City of Grand Prairie and the State of Texas.

Media Interest: High

Media Links: <https://www.wbap.com/2020/08/19/breaking-massive-fire-at-poly-america-plant-in-grand-prairie-threatens-businesses/>
<https://www.wfaa.com/article/news/local/massive-fire-breaks-out-at-factory-in-grand-prairie/287-aa702222-e44e-40e8-8e45-2d625ec62e90>

Note:

The EPA will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed

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